

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12771

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EG, XF
SUBJECT: FONMIN KAMEL AND REFORGING ARAB SOLIDARITY

1. AS DEPT AWARE, FONMIN KAMEL (AND HIS SIDEKICK MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI) ARE STRONG ADVOCATES OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. KAMEL IS DEEPLY TROUBLED AT DIVISIONS IN ARAB WORLD AND HAS BEEN URGING SADAT AND VP MUBARAK (A) TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH WILL FURTHER DEEPEN THESE DIVISIONS AND
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(B) TO SEEK WAYS TO REFORGE SOME ELEMENT OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. KAMEL BELIEVES THIS IS ESSENTIAL WHETHER OR NOT THE SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE IS SUCCESSFUL. HE HAS IN FACT BEEN LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE INITIATIVE, THUS FAR TO NO AVAIL.

2. KAMEL WAS HEARTENED AS A RESULT MARCH ARAB LEAGUE

FONMIN MEETING, LARGELY BY SAUDI ATTITUDE. SAUD BIN FAISAL REPORTEDLY TOLD HIM THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE HAD BEEN A SUCCESS AS EVIDENCED BY CHANGING AMERICAN PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ARAB CAUSE. THIS PROMPTED KAMEL TO HOPE THAT SAUDIS MIGHT BECOME MORE VOCALLY SUPPORTIVE OF SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. KAMEL ALSO WAS PLEASED AT DECISION TO ESTABLISH AN ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, HEADED BY SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI, TO TRY TO BRIDGE EXISTING ARAB DIFFERENCES TO A POINT WHERE AN ARAB SUMMIT MIGHT BE CONVENED.

3. ALTHOUGH KAMEL WAS NOT PRESENT AT ALL NUMAYRI'S RECENT MEETINGS WITH SADAT, HE WAS PRESENT DURING THE FIRST SET OF TALKS. KAMEL IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SADAT'S "CONCESSION" TO NUMAYRI THAT, EVEN THOUGH GOE WILL NOT STOP ITS DIALOGUE WITH ISRAELIS, ANY MEETING BETWEEN SENIOR ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES WHICH MAY BE CALLED BETWEEN NOW AND AN ARAB SUMMIT (WHENEVER THAT IS) WILL NOT RPT NOT BE HELD IN EGYPT, BUT IN A THIRD COUNTRY (IS THIS ENOUGH TO MEET SYRIAN DEMAND THAT "ROAD BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND CAIRO BE CLOSED"?). KAMEL HOPES THIS CONCESSION WILL HELP BRING THE SYRIANS AROUND.

4. IN CURIOUS CONTRAST TO NEGATIVE ESTIMATES OF LIKELIHOOD OF AN EARLY ARAB SUMMIT HELD BY NEIGHBORING ARAB STATES, KAMEL STILL BELIEVES A SUMMIT IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE. ASKED TO ASSESS LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH A SUMMIT HE TOLD AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY THAT HE CONSIDERS THE ODDS ARE SIX TO FOUR THAT SUCH A SUMMIT WILL BE HELD BEFORE JULY. WERE SUCH A SUMMIT TO APPEAR LIKELY AS RESULT OF NUMAYRI'S CURRENT SHUTTLING, WE COULD EXPECT KAMEL TO URGE SOME FURTHER CHANGES IN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST PEACE SCENARIO AND SADAT MIGHT JUST BE TEMPTED TO GO ALONG. EILTS

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